

CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus comprising:
a tube formed as a generally L-shaped strut for conforming to the contour of the nose of a
wearer, said L-shaped strut having a proximal end connected to an oxygen supply and a distal
end connected to a nosepiece having a one or more intra-nasal oxygen delivery output ports;
wherein said L-shaped strut includes a long leg member shaped to rest in substantially
flush contact with the ridge pole of the wearer's nose;
and further comprising a nasal shield stabilizer including:
a central strip portion coupled to said long leg member; and
lateral wings extending from each side of said central strip portion for gripping
the sides of the wearer's nose

3. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 2, wherein said L-shaped strut and said nosepiece are a single component.

4. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 2, wherein said L-shaped strut and said nosepiece are multiple components.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 2 [[5]], wherein said L-shaped strut further includes a short leg member proximally coupled in a contiguously bending manner to said long leg member such that said short leg member is shaped to extend over the tip of the wearer's nose, said short leg distally coupled to said nosepiece.

7. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 6, wherein said long leg member, said short leg member and said nosepiece are a single component.

8. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 6, wherein said long leg member, said short leg member and said nosepiece are multiple components.

9. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 2, wherein said nosepiece comprises a hollow body in fluid communication with said L-shaped strut.

10. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 9, wherein said nosepiece further comprises a septum bearing surface from which said one or more intra-nasal oxygen delivery output ports extend in alignment with one or more of the wearer's nares.

11. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 10, wherein said L-shaped strut and said nosepiece are a single component.

12. (currently amended) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 10, wherein said L-shaped strut and said nosepiece are [[a]] multiple components.

13. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a headband for securing said proximal end of said L-shaped strut against the wearer's forehead.

14. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 13, wherein said headband is secured to the wearer's forehead such that an inward traction force is applied to secure said one or more intra-nasal oxygen delivery output ports.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 2 ~~[[15]]~~, wherein said L-shaped strut, said nosepiece and said nasal shield stabilizer are a single component.

17. (currently amended) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 2 ~~[[15]]~~, wherein said L-shaped strut, said nosepiece and said nasal shield stabilizer are multiple components.

18. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 2, wherein said L-shaped strut is connected in fluid communication with an oxygen supply tube, said nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus further comprising:

a tube support means disposed behind the wearer's head, wherein said tube support means provides a balance point for said oxygen supply tube; and

biasing means for applying backward tension on said oxygen supply tube.

19. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 18, wherein said tube support means comprises a ring.

20. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 18, wherein said biasing means comprises a counterweight coupled to said oxygen supply tube.

21. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 6, wherein said long leg member is securable to the ridge pole of the wearer's nose in such a manner as to raise and shorten the tip of the wearer's nose resulting in an increase in diameter and decrease in length of the wearer's external nasal airway.

22. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 21, wherein said L-shaped strut is comprised of a material with sufficient elasticity so as to allow said long leg member to be conformed to the external surface contour of the wearer's nose.

23. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 21 further comprising a means for securing said apparatus to the wearer's nose.

24. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 23 wherein said means of securing said apparatus to the wearer's nose is adhesive tape.

25. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 23 wherein said means of securing said apparatus to the wearer's nose is an adhesive applied to an undersurface of said L-shaped strut.

26. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 21 wherein said L-shaped strut is especially shaped, configured and adapted so as to conform to external surface contour of the wearer's nose.

27. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 26 wherein said L-shaped strut is comprised of a material having sufficient pliability and elastic memory as to allow said conformance to the external surface contour of the wearer's nose to provide a means of securing said apparatus to said wearer.

28. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 26, wherein said L-shaped strut and said nosepiece are a single component.

29. (original) The nasal oxygen supply cannula and support apparatus of claim 26, wherein said L-shaped strut and said nosepiece are multiple components.

30 - 55. (canceled)